

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1, 7-9, 16-18, 21 and 22 remain in the application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner indicated that original claims 6, 7, 15, 16 and 20-22 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, in accordance with the Examiner's reasons for allowance, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of original claims 2, 3, 4 and 6. Original claims 2-6 have been canceled, and dependent claim 7 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1. Likewise, original claim 8 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

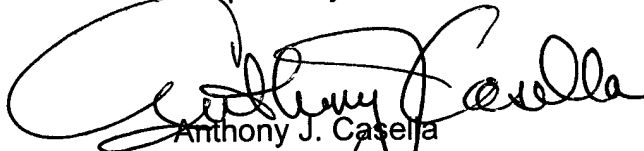
Independent claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claims 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15. Original claims 10-15 have been canceled. Dependent claims 16 and 17 have been amended to depend from amended claim 9.

Finally, independent claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claims 19 and 20, with original claim 21 being amended to depend from amended claim 18. Original claim 22, in turn, remains dependent from claim 21.

In accordance with the suggestions of the Examiner, independent claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended to include all the limitations of the base claim and the allowable dependent claims, and it is respectfully submitted that those claims are in condition for allowance, as are the claims which depend therefrom, and allowance thereof is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions relative to the above, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Casella", written over the printed name.

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